THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OF INDIA.

Monday, the 8th November 1965.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU) in the Chair.

I.—EXPRESSION OF SORROW AT THE DEMISE OF SHRI BALVANTRAI GOPALJI MAHTA, CHIEF MINISTER OF GUJARAT AND SRIMATHI BALVANTRAI MAHTA. AND SRI S. P. SIVASUBRAMANIA NADAR, FORMER MEMBER OF THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is with deep regret that I have to announce to the House the tragic death of Sri Balvantrai Gopalji Mehta, Chief Minister of Gujarat, and Srimathi Balyantrai Mehta in an air crash due to the dastardly action by Pakistan on Sunday, the 19th September 1965.

Late Sri Balvantrai Mehta took a leading part in the famous Bardoli "Satyagrah" movement under the leadership of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and courted arrest and also suffered imprisonment during 1930 Salt Satyagraha movement launched by Gandhiji. He was a veteran freedom fighter. In 1942 he was imprisoned for participation in "Quit India" movement. He was elected to the Legislative Assembly of Bhavnagar State, where he became the Leader of the Opposition. He was elected to the Constituent Assembly in 1947. He was elected as a Member of Parliament in 1952 and 1957 General Elections. He was Chairman of the Estimates Committee of the Lok Sabha for two terms. He was Chief Minister of Gujarat for two years since September 19, 1963. His was a life of suffering and dedication throughout and he died in harness. In his death, Gujarat in particular and India in general have suffered an irreparablé loss.

On behalf of the House, I shall convey our deep sense of sorrow to the Government of Gujarat and its people and to the members of the bereaved family.

I have also to announce to the House with regret the death of Sri S. P. Sivasubramania Nadar, former Member of the Madras Legislative Council.

Sri S. P. Sivasubramania Nadar, former Member of the Madras Legislative Council, passed away on Tuesday, the 14th September 1965. He was a Member of the Madras Legislative Council from 1952 to 1962. He was a member of the Tirunelveli Municipal Council for eleven years and also a member of the Senate of the Annamalai University for four years.

On behalf of the House, I shall convey our deep sense of sorrow to the members of the bereaved family.

I now request the hon. Members to stand in silence for a minute as a mark of respect to the late Srimathi and Sri Balvantrai Gopalji Mehta and Sri S. P. Sivasubramania Nadar.

Accordingly, the Members stood in silence for a minute.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Hoganekkal Scheme

* 131. *Q.*—SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state with reference to the answer given to the Legislative Council Question No. 239 on 27th July 1964 (regarding Hoganekkal Scheme) the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : A revised Scheme has been prepared by the Madras State Electricity Board and submitted to the Central Water and Power Commission for its approval.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : When was the proposal of this Government submitted? Have the Government received any reply to their communication? If not, have they reminded the Central Government for taking early action in the matter?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : The Central Government cannot take early action. Actually this is a matter for agreement between two States. We are discussing it at different levels.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : What is the nature of difference between the two States regarding the proposal? May I know the main features of the difference?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : We have suggested the location of the dam at a particular site. The Mysore Government have suggested the location of the dam at a higher level at a different site. These are technical matters which require closer examination.

SRI K. S. ABDUL WAHAB : What is the opinion of the Centre in this regard?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : That is why I said that they would have to examine the technical aspects of both the schemes and that is now with the Central Water Power Commission.